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College Heights Herald

Western Kentucky University

Volume 52, No. 25

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Monday, November 20, 1972

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Photos by Paul Schumann

HEAD COACH JIM RICHARDS (right) and assistant coach Benny Dees, shown in one of last year's games, will direct the 1972-73 Hilltoppers into action again this year beginning next Monday night.

The Western five opens against Old Dominion in a 7:30 game in the E. A. Diddle Arena.

Old Dominion offers first test Monday

Stronger OVC to pose stern challenge for Tops

By CARTER PENCE

Football season is but a few days over and already the basketball season is less than a week away. The 1972-73 Hilltoppers take the floor for the first regular season game next Monday night at Diddle Arena. The game starts at 7:30, with Old Dominion providing the opposition.

"We need to get our walking wounded back," said assistant coach Benny Dees. He was referring to injuries sustained by John Heath, who broke his foot during drills two weeks ago, and Kent Allison, who is getting over a minor case of mononucleosis.

Heath's injury is not as serious as was first thought, but he is unlikely to see action until at least the start of the Ohio Valley Conference season, which begins at East Tennessee Jan. 13.

Allison, on the other hand, was allowed to start practicing last Wednesday, although he was instructed to limit his activity to shooting drills.

"We were counting on both of them heavily," said Topper head

coach Jim Richards. Dees noted that bench strength was one of Western's strong points before the two were made unavailable.

With the status of both still somewhat up in the air, Richards is trying to find a starting five for next week's opener. And this is no easy task. "Not always the five best individuals group together to make the best team," said Richards. "It's like a chemistry experiment: You keep trying different things until eventually one of them is the right one."

Even as late as this, several of the starting positions are still up for grabs. Rex Bailey, Jerry Dunn and Terry Davis, all of whom were heavy-duty performers last season, have used up all their eligibility. Jerome Perry and Danny Johnson, who also saw a great deal of action, are also gone.

The only regular back from last year's squad is center Granville Bunton, the captain of the squad. Chuck Witt and Tony Stroud, who started in some of the games and who were used extensively in the latter stages of the '71-72 campaign, are also back.

Some of the new faces this year include Mike Larson, a redshirt last year, and freshmen Johnny Britt and Chuck Rawlings and Heath.

Larson, a forward, is one of the reasons that Richards expects this year's team to be much improved offensively over last year's. Britt and Rawlings, All-Staters for Warren East and Elizabethtown, respectively, should provide good backup power at the guards and may possibly see some starting service later in the year. "They could be the best pair of guards in the OVC before they're seniors," said Dees. "They both have super attitudes."

Heath, whom Dees recruited from Dalton Junior College in Dalton, Ga., figured heavily in Richards' plans. Heath is regarded as a strong outside shooter and a good rebounder and his height (6-6) would be a needed asset to the Western lineup since the Toppers aren't exactly blessed with great height this year. "We have average height and reasonably good jumpers," said Richards, "but we'll definitely depend heavily on position."

Defensively, Western may not be quite as strong as last year. And Richards, who prefers to put full-court pressure on the opposition, may have to sacrifice

that luxury. "We have the speed, but not the quickness," he said, referring to quickness as both lateral and backward movement.

One of the surprises for both Richards and Dees this year has been the overall improvement of center Ray Bowerman. "Bowerman is without doubt the most improved player on the squad," said Dees, and Richards nodded affirmatively. "He's not there yet, but he's really come along," continued Dees. Both also noted great improvement in sophomore Jerry Bundy.

Richards said he thought Western

—Continued to Page 12—

Rules changes affect free throws, move closer to international rules

By RICHARD ROGERS

So you think you're a basketball expert? Know the rules, the outstanding players, and

everything that deals with basketball?

Let's see how the expert will answer this quiz. Take a college game between Western Kentucky

and Old Dominion. At the start of the game, Western's center, Ray Bowerman, taps the ball out to guard, Tony Stroud. Stroud starts up the court then stops when he hears a whistle.

An official, who was itching to call his first foul since last season, pointed his finger at an Old Dominion player who was guarding Stroud. The player was called for body contact.

What happens? A typical answer would be that Stroud would receive one free throw shot. Last season that answer would be right; but this season, believe it or not, that answer would be wrong.

Come on now, it's not the end of the world. Let's look at the new facts.

The NCAA's Rules Committee has eliminated all free throw attempts for the first six common personal fouls of each half for each team. The rule book says that a common foul is "a personal foul that is neither flagrant nor intentional nor committed against a player trying for a field goal, nor part of a double or multiple foul."

The penalty will be a violation and the offended team will return the ball to play with an inbounds pass. But the player who made the foul will be given an individual personal foul.

The free throw will still be shot at all times for these fouls: the flagrant foul; a violent or savage

—Continued to Page 4—

—Continued to Page 10—

OVC outlook

'Experts' favor Morehead, Western for loop's top honors

By LEO PECKENPAUGH

It took seven weeks and two playoff games to decide the Ohio Valley Conference basketball champion last year, when all they had to do was listen to a group of basketball intellectuals.

And this group, the one that so confidently predicted the OVC winner nearly two weeks before the season started last year, is at it again. These same great minds, minus a couple (the ones who tipped off the Herald), have met, contemplated and maybe even guessed to come up with this year's champ.

And from the looks of things, it may take a half a dozen playoff games this year.

You remember it last year. A wild and furious finish down to the last week of the season couldn't even decide the champ. It took a three-way playoff on a neutral floor. And OVC fans were in for

the treat of the year because both games (Western vs. Morehead, Morehead vs. Eastern) were real barnburners which saw Eastern come out on top.

But we gave it to you months ahead of time. As a matter of fact, we gave you four of the top five finishes in the OVC, missing only on a young Murray team that couldn't keep up with the hot tempo of the league leaders.

Anyway, it'll be Morehead this year, says the "fearsome foursome," who foresaw this year's race. And once again, the Kentucky teams will prevail in the upper division of the loop.

How they'll finish:

1. Morehead
2. Western
3. Murray
4. Eastern
5. Middle Tennessee
6. Tennessee Tech
7. Austin Peay
8. East Tennessee

Completely overlooked last preseason in our "Player of the Year" speculations was Leonard Coulter, Morehead's finest. The Eagles had Coulter hidden in the Eastern Kentucky mountains, and it wasn't until the season started that we were even informed that such a fine specimen existed.

Obviously Coulter, who was the league's "Soph of the Year" last year, has to be tabbed as a candidate for the MVP award this year, after leading the sophomore-laden Morehead squad to a share of the league crown with his 24.9 points per game average.

But over on the other side of the state, in a small town called Murray, lives a tremendous basketball machine called Les Taylor, last year's "Player of the Year." The sometimes unbelievable Taylor, a 6-3 senior forward for the Racers, was the overwhelming preseason choice for the top player award last year, but

finds himself in a tie for the top spot this year with Coulter.

Other players receiving votes in this year's poll were Western's Tony Stroud, a tremendous floor leader, and Wayne "Spider" Pack, a guard who leads the Tennessee Tech attack.

Here's a quick look at the teams in the league this year.

Morehead—Coach Bill Harrell enters his fourth year as head coach at the Eagles nest, and it appears he is in for the best year ever. Back are 11 of 12 players from last year's 16-11 squad.

Also back is Harrell's entire starting unit, which makes his Eagles the overwhelming choice for team honors.

Along with Coulter there is Howard Wallen, (6-2), also an All-OVC pick, at one guard, and Bill Dotson, (6-4), at the other back court spot.



Staff photo by George Wedding

TONY STROUD, a 6-1 guard from Chicago, will lead the Topper attack this year. Stroud, who averaged 10.7 points last year, has been touted by coach Jim Richards as "one of the best guards in the league, if not the best."

College Heights Herald

Western Kentucky University

Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

Leo Peckenpaugh
Sports Editor

Staff: Carter Pence, Skip Schooley, Fred Lawrence, Richard Rogers

Cover Photo

CHUCK WITT goes high above an East Tennessee player to grab one of his many rebounds during the 1971-72 basketball campaign.

Cover Photo by David Sutherland

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OVC stronger from top to bottom

—Continued from Page 2—

Eugene Lyons (6-5) will fill the other forward spot, and 6-9 center Ron Nicholson will hold forth in the middle.

It looks like a banner year for the Eagles. Says Harrell: "A good bench will definitely help us, but the biggest asset will be all of that experience from last year. This team grew up in that stretch drive last year, and they can handle themselves in any kind of

situation."

Eastern—The Colonels captured the title last year and earned a playoff berth following their win over Morehead in the league playoff. And to show just how tough the OVC really is, coach Guy Strong's team lost to eventual NCAA runner-up, Florida State, 83-81, in Midwest Regional tournament play.

Back is Charlie Mitchell, a 6-3 forward who is the eighth leading scorer in EKV history. His 22.7

scoring average led him to a spot on the all-conference team last year, and things look even brighter for him this year.

The only other returning starter for the fifth-year coach is center Dan Argabright (6-11). Argabright averaged 10.8 last year, but the biggest disappointment for Strong was Argabright's paltry per game rebounding average.

Juniors Robert Brooks and Rick Stansel (both 6-5) should help, but the Colonels could be hurting out front.

Murray—Coach Cal Luther's Racers were picked high last year, too high, pending play of a young, talented group up from their finest freshman team ever. Things didn't jell, however, and the Racers folded down the stretch.

Back, of course, is the sensational Taylor, undoubtedly the finest player in the league. Then there's 6-8 Marcellus Starks, coming off a mediocre sophomore year, and from whom Luther expects bigger and better things this year.

Tiny (5-10) Steve Barrett returns to quarterback the Murray offense, and if Luther can come up with a formidable bench, his Racers could take all of the marbles.

Tennessee Tech and Middle Tennessee seem to hold the upper hand in the Volunteer State this year.

Tech returns three All-OVC performers in Wayne Pack, Rich Stone and Al Lewis, and could be this year's darkhorse. Added experience could help tremendously, but a lack of height could dampen title hopes.

The Golden Eagles held a one-game lead in the conference standings late last season only to see their hopes for a title washed down the drain with a 68-66 loss at Murray and a 98-96 loss at home to Morehead in the closing week of play.

Coach Jimmy Earle of Middle Tennessee returns seven regulars from last year's 15-11 club. Guards Jim Drew (6-3) and Mason Bonner (5-11) along with 6-10 center Chester Brown and forward Nick Prater (6-4), will lead Earle's defense-minded Blue Raiders, but a lack of experienced firepower from the bench may prove deadly to their title hopes.

East Tennessee and Austin Peay don't figure in title talk this year, although both are always stubborn on their home grounds.

ETSU's Madison Brooks, the dean of OVC coaches now in his 25th year with the Bucs, lost only one full-time starter from last year's 11-14 team.

Henry White (18.4), a 6-2 playmaker, will lead the attack, and (6-7) Ron Mitchell (7.9) and 6-7 Ron Hardin (6.2) figure to give support.

Austin Peay, on the other hand, suffered a severe jolt recently when 6-9 center Greg Kinman decided to pass up his last year of eligibility.

Howard Jackson (6-7) and Eddie Childress (6-4) figure to give someone headaches before the year's over, and this sophomore-and-juniordominated club could be building for much better things next year.



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'Part of University'

Broadcasters take pride in athletes

By FRED LAWRENCE

Spirit, excitement, pride, involvement. These are the terms used by the men in the local broadcast media to describe why they enjoy broadcasting and covering Western athletics.

The men who do the broadcasts are Hugh "Bud" Tyler, WBGN radio; Charles Wesley Strader, WKCT radio, and Jerry Wallace, WBKO television.

Tyler, billed as the "Voice of the Hilltoppers", is the senior member of the trio. "I've been following Western since 1958 or 59," he said. He said that it has been so long that he really did not remember exactly. "It's knowing the boys, the action and the excitement that I like most," he said, and added that he likes the involvement which "makes you a part of the University."

Strader is next in seniority having covered the Toppers for nine years. What he liked most about covering Western athletics, he said "Was the pride of the Hilltop. It sort of rubs off on you. The opposition is always looking for you, they want to beat you. This generates pride. It builds and rubs off on all those who are close to the athletic program and to those who are not so close to it."

The junior member of the group is Wallace. He moved to Bowling Green from Florida in late 1969 and went to work for WBKO about a year later, he said. "The quality of the basketball and football programs" played at Western was what he likes most about covering the Toppers, he said.

"I've seen no other school spirit that could top the Big Red," Wallace said. "The student body lends great support. This is not always the case. It seems to be more common in Kentucky than in

most states and particularly so at Western."

WBKO does not broadcast the games live as the radio stations do, but instead tapes the home games for broadcast at 10:30 on game night. Wallace does the commentary.

All three agree that there are few disadvantages about covering Western's games. In fact Tyler said "It's a perfect job. The worst moment we've ever had emotionally was being beaten at Iowa City by Michigan in the 1966 NCAA," he said. The loss was the result of a close and highly disputed foul call on Western.

Strader said other than losing there was nothing he did not like about covering the Topper teams. He said that sometimes there are bad broadcasting conditions or unfavorable weather, "but I can't say that there is anything I didn't enjoy about covering Western."

Wallace's only complaint was the "lack of coverage of spring sports by other media."

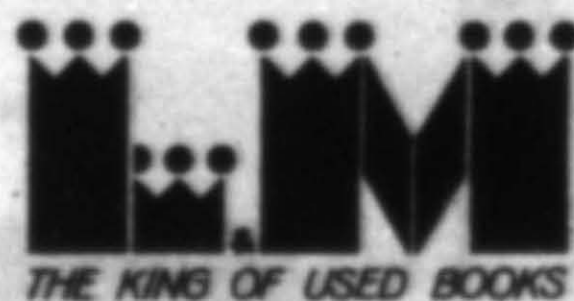
The most exciting experience, all three said, was the NCAA trip to Houston. Strader and Tyler also mentioned the 1966 NCAA games. Tyler said that the victory against Chicago Lyola in the 1966 NCAA and against Jacksonville in the 1971 NCAA were the two games he remembered best.

For Strader the most memorable game was the disputed game with Michigan in the 1966 NCAA playoffs. And for Wallace, the highlight of covering Western was the 1971 NCAA team.

Tyler has often been criticized and laughed at for being too emotional and prejudiced in his broadcasts. About that he said, "Let me quote Coach (Ed) Diddle (Western's former head basketball coach) on that. He said 'If you can't be for us then by damn, don't show up!'"

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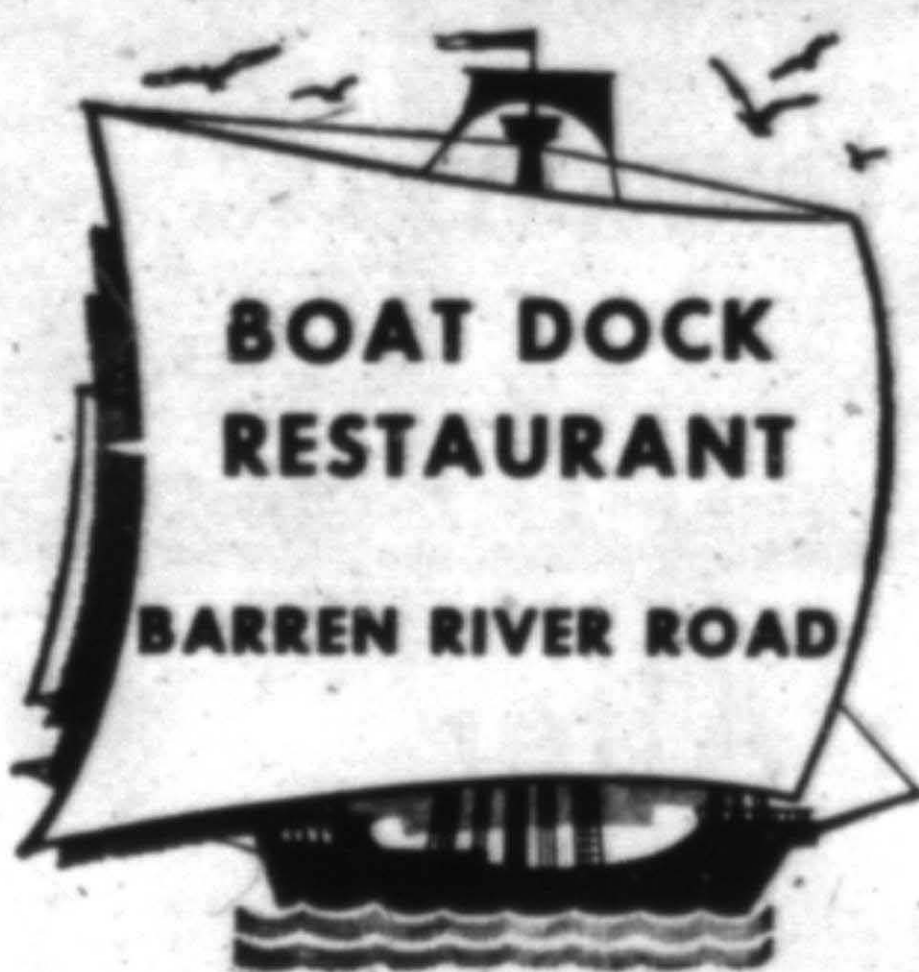
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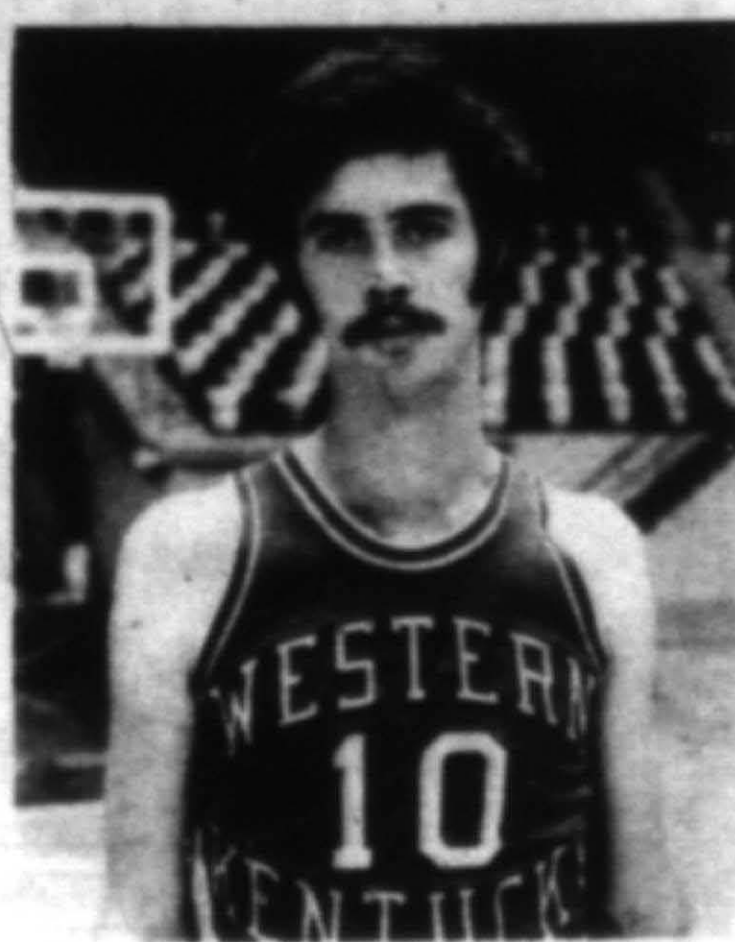
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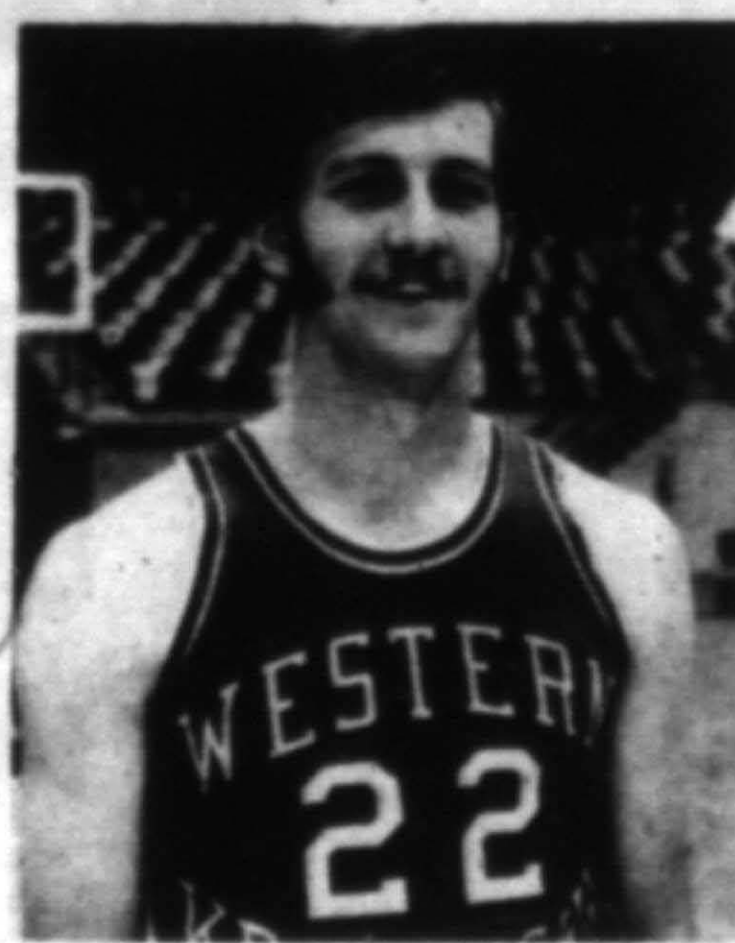
10-Dennis Smith



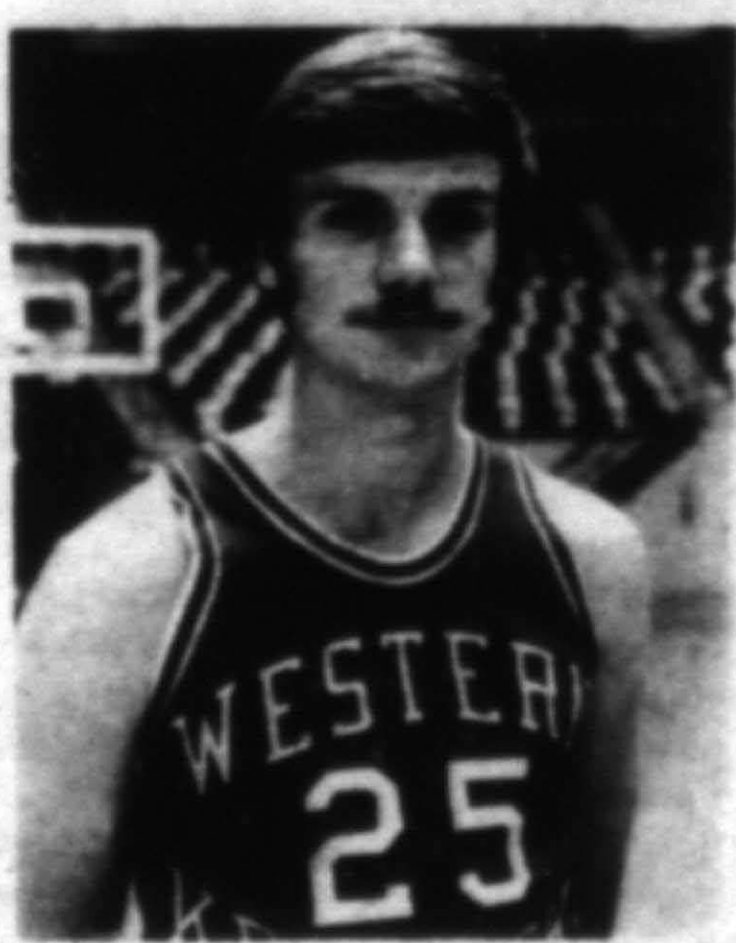
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12-Tony



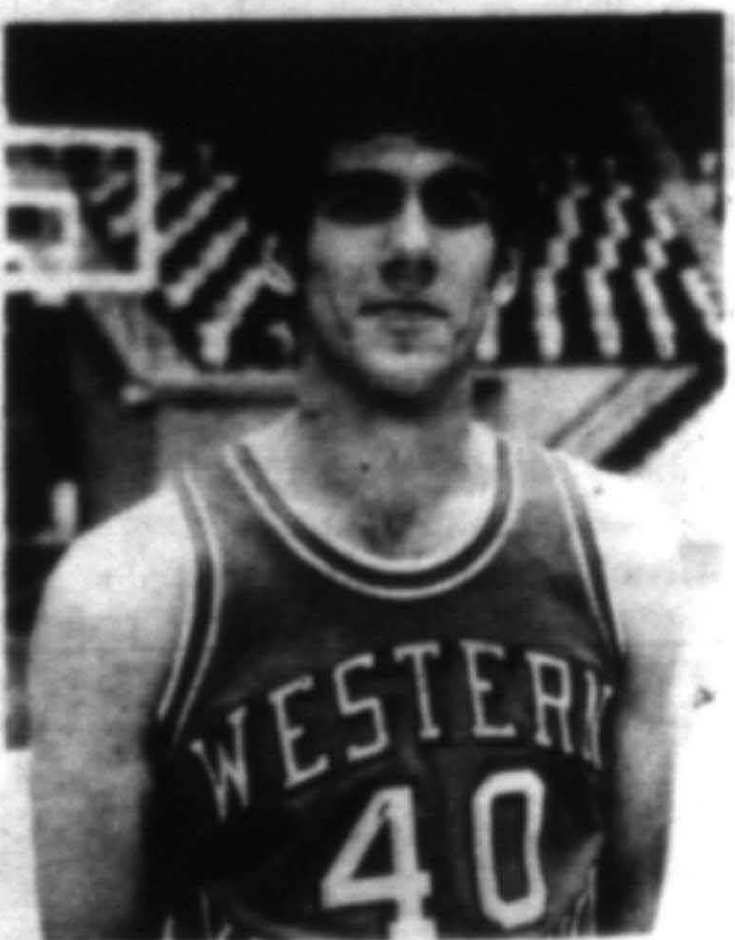
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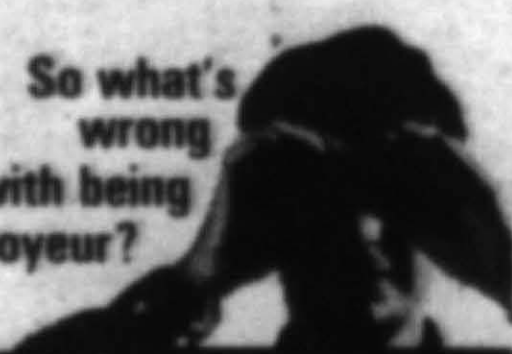
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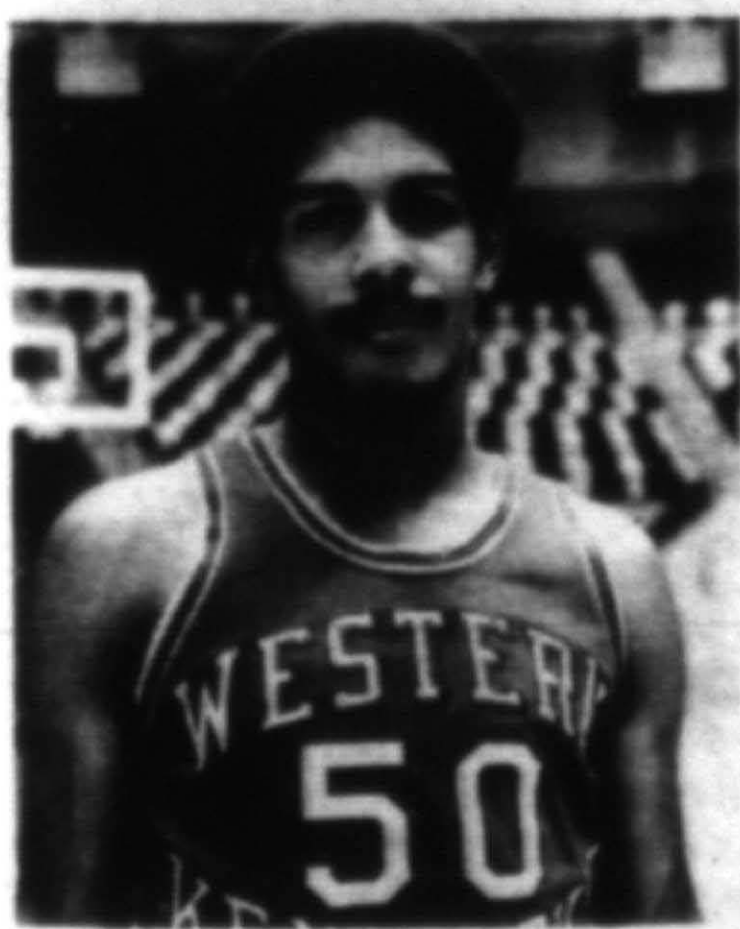
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Hilltoppers in the pros

McDaniels, Smith, Haskins, Carrier currently donning professional garb

By SKIP SCHOOLEY

Rich in tradition and spirit, the Western basketball season opens again next Monday in Diddle Arena. Head coach Jim Richards goes into his second season again plagued by injuries. If he could call on former Western players now in the pros, he would be in fine shape.

Jim McDaniels, the most recent graduate playing in the pros, would give Richards his true big man in the middle. McDaniels is seven feet tall, but has the shooting touch of a man much shorter.

Big Mac signed with the Carolina Cougars "after" graduation and immediately became involved in a controversy. The Utah Stars had draft rights to McDaniels but Mac said he didn't want to play in Utah. In stepped the Cougars.

McDaniels became one of the most expensive players in the history of basketball. Carolina gave him one of the largest bonuses ever given a player, and then had to settle with Utah. The Stars obtained a large sum of cash and a player from Carolina for the loss of their rights to McDaniels.

Mac has since gained the spotlight by jumping leagues. A court order was issued to prevent him from jumping to Seattle of the NBA, but fast work by his lawyer had the injunction nullified. McDaniels is now playing for Seattle and is struggling to regain the stardom achieved here.

Greg Smith was McDaniels' predecessor, swinging between center and forward. Although Greg is only 6'5", he can jump like a man much taller. Smith averaged 11.8 rebounds a game in his three seasons on the varsity team.

After graduation Greg signed with the Milwaukee Bucks of the NBA. He continued to play outstanding defense and help the Bucks to their world championship two years ago. Greg has since been traded to Houston and then to Portland.

Clem Haskins was an Associated Press All-American selection in 1967 after leading the Hilltoppers



The Gem still shines

CLEM HASKINS, former Hilltopper All-American, now with the Phoenix Suns of the NBA, has been an important part of the Suns' success. Since coming to Phoenix from the Chicago Bulls, Haskins has averaged better than 16 points per game.

to the OVC championship and a berth in the NCAA Mid-East Regional playoffs. Clem's nickname was "the Gem" and if you ever saw him play, you know why he got the name. He was a polished player in all phases of the game.

Haskins was drafted by the Chicago Bulls after graduation and Clem helped them greatly, whether starting or coming off the bench. Haskins was traded to the Phoenix Suns and has continued

to play good ball.

An even earlier Westerner still active in pro ball is Darel Carrier. Carrier graduated in 1961 and has played with the Kentucky Colonels until this year. He announced his retirement this year, but has since changed his mind and is now on the roster of the Memphis Tams.

Western has been blessed with several All-Americans over the years and numerous other players who have gone to the pro ranks. Hopefully the tradition of good basketball will continue at Western and the number of Hilltopper graduates to play pro ball will continue to grow.

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His rebounding counted on heavily

Bunton could be key to Toppers' success

By LEO PECKENPAUGH

Back in 1968 Granville Bunton signed a grant-in-aid with Tulsa University to play basketball. Why not? He had had an outstanding high school career at Louisville Male, where he led his team to a two-year record of 51-10.

And that 51-10 record came against some pretty stiff competition since that is the pressure-type, defense-minded play of the Louisville teams.

So Bunton was set, and off he went to the Oklahoma school to begin a successful four-year tenure with the Golden Hurricane.

Being switched from his normal center position in high school to the forward spot at Tulsa, Bunton responded with a good year. He averaged 15 points and 18 rebounds per outing.

It was a promising year, and Granville was anxiously looking forward to the next season when he could prove to coach Ken Hayes that he was capable of handling a starting role for the varsity.

But when Granny (as he is called by nearly everyone) reported for practice the next year, he was greeted by a couple of junior college transfers who were highly regarded by Hayes.

This didn't bother Granny, mind you, because as he put it, "I thought I was better than those guys; matter of fact, I knew I was better."

But the coach didn't see things the way Granny did.

Thus, the 6-6 Bunton saw limited action, started only four or five games and became disenchanted with the Tulsa atmosphere.

Tulsa, a private school, is a nice

school, "if," as Granny put it, "you are pretty well off (financially)." And growing up in a large family in the projects of Louisville, Granny couldn't seem to adjust to the setting.

"I couldn't relate to the people at Tulsa," Granny said recently as he stretched over the chairback seats in Diddle Arena and gazed across the floor. "The people who lived out there were pretty well off and I just wasn't used to being around that type of people. Everybody had money, because it was a rich, private school," Bunton continued.

"I really got disgusted because they lied to me about some things and I guess I got the feeling the whole world was like that. I was a little immature also, and I guess I grew up a little over it."

So Granny finished out the year, playing only sparingly, and burning more and more as he rode the bench.

He returned to Louisville for the summer and the more he thought about it, the less he wanted to go back to Tulsa. And as the summer ran its course, he flatly decided that he didn't want to further his education.

It was the summer of 1970, a time that found a powerful contingent of talented players here at Western terrorizing its opponents. Of course, you know by now, because it was during the days of Jim McDaniels, Clarence Glover and Jim Rose that the Hilltoppers were so powerful.

And it so happens that Bunton ran upon Mac and his teammates in Louisville's annual Dirt Bowl basketball classic. Bunton was playing with some friends, namely Tom Payne (former UK star),

Henry Bacon (who played for Louisville last year) and others, and the time came that his team was matched against the likes of McDaniels, Rose, Glover, Clem

Haskins and other Western greats. And it was Bunton who was matched with the seven-foot McDaniels. He fared well, as he puts it, "I had 15 at the half and

ended up with about 25 against Mac."

Haskins, playing currently with the Phoenix Suns, had heard Bunton was unhappy about the Tulsa situation and suggested he try Western.

"Clem asked me to check out Western," said Granny, "but I had actually thought about not going back to school."

As it turned out the likeable Bunton did "check out" Western and its coach, Jim Richards. He liked what he saw and decided to transfer to the Bowling Green campus.

Ah, happiness at last. But not so with Granny.

He sat out the mandatory year as a transfer, and returned to the floor, last year, making his debut with the Hilltoppers as their starting center. But again things didn't go well. Granny played poorly, and eventually saw his starting position being relinquished to Ray Bowerman.

"My poor start last year was because I just wasn't in shape," Granny admitted. "The year's layoff really hurt me and I didn't have a lot of confidence, probably because I had played forward at Tulsa and made the switch to the middle here."

As it was he worked and worked until he was in shape, and decided in January that he was ready to play. "I went to Coach Richards in January and told him I was ready to play," said Granny. "I didn't start the next game but I finally earned my way into the lineup."

And when Granny entered the lineup things began to happen. The Toppers, only mediocre

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THE CAPTAIN of the 1972-73 Hilltoppers is senior Granville Bunton. A graduate of Louisville Male High, Bunton has come to be one of the OVC's top rebounders.

1972-73 Varsity Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site
Nov. 27	Old Dominion	Home
Dec. 1	Texas Tech	Home
Dec. 2	Stetson	Home
Dec. 4	West Georgia	Home
Dec. 8-9	Vanderbilt Invitational (Western, Vanderbilt Columbia, Kent State)	Nashville, Tenn.
Dec. 13	Butler	Indianapolis, Ind.
Dec. 15-16	Trojan Invitational (Western, Southern Cal Purdue, Auburn)	Los Angeles, Calif.
Jan. 10	Providence	Providence, R.I.
Jan. 13	*East Tennessee	Johnson City, Tenn.
Jan. 15	*Tennessee Tech	Cookeville, Tenn.
Jan. 20	*Eastern Kentucky	Home
Jan. 22	*Morehead State	Home
Jan. 27	*Murray State	Murray
Jan. 29	*Austin Peay	Home
Jan. 31	LaSalle	Philadelphia, Pa.
Feb. 3	*Middle Tennessee	Home
Feb. 6	Dayton	Dayton, Ohio
Feb. 10	*Tennessee Tech	Home
Feb. 12	*East Tennessee	Home
Feb. 17	*Morehead State	Morehead
Feb. 19	*Eastern Kentucky	Richmond
Feb. 24	*Austin Peay	Clarksville, Tenn.
Feb. 26	*Murray State	Home
March 3	*Middle Tennessee	Murfreesboro, Tenn.

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No more Oscars for faking fouls

—Continued from Page 2—

unsportsmanlike act; the intentional foul, one which the official judges to be designed or premeditated; the foul committed against a player shooting for a field goal; and for the double foul, where opponents commit simultaneous personal fouls against each other.

Now the former basketball expert asks, "What is the purpose of this new rule change?" Jim Enright, editor of "The Official NCAA Basketball Guide" explains: "It's estimated that this waiver of the monotonous walkoffs to one or the other free throw lines will shave from five to seven minutes off the overall playing time."

Western's head coach Jim Richards feels that this new rule will not affect the Hilltopper game that much. With the game five or six minutes shorter, will not hurt a team because the teams still play a full 40 minutes. There will just be a lot more action, and it will not affect the scoring that much. In fact, instead of shooting one free throw, a team gets a chance to score two points.

Coach Richards went on to say that a major reason for the rules changes is to make the American rules closer to the same level of

international rules. NCAA officials want the United States players to know the rules before they compete in the Olympic games and other international contests.

Another new rule this season deals with the players who fake being fouled. Enright said, "The chief reason for such an announcement is that more and more during recent seasons, players have attempted to create the false impression that they have been fouled in charging-guard situations or while screening when the contact was only 'incidental.'"

This year, if an official is of the opinion that the player is acting out a foul, the "actor" will not receive an Oscar for his performance, but a technical foul.

Coach Richards said, "The purpose of this rule is to keep the officials from looking bad in the eyes of the fans." This rule has always been in the rule book, but

this year it is better defined.

Overall, these new rules may force Richards to change his coaching technique to some extent. For example, with the ball going out of bounds instead of a free throw shot, Western will have to be much more careful with its zone press after a converted free throw.

These two rules are about the only major ones the NCAA's Rules Committee has tinkered with for the 1972-73 season. Also, a new ingredient, the freshman, has been added to major college basketball. For the first time in many years, freshmen are eligible to play on the varsity team.

This new rule may help Western this year. With Jon Heath out for half of the season with a broken foot and Kent Allison down with mononucleosis, the Hilltoppers' freshmen could play a major role in keeping the team in the race for the Ohio Valley Conference title.

Open here Monday

Topper junior varsity sets 16-game schedule

A rugged 16-game schedule is awaiting the Hilltoppers junior varsity team.

The Western Jayvee squad will be coached by assistant coach Ralph Baker.

The schedule:

Nov. 27 — Paducah Community College; 30 — At Elizabethtown Community College.

Dec. 1 — Lindsey Wilson; 4 —

David Lipscomb JV.

Jan. 15 — At Tenn. Tech. JV; 22 — Elizabethtown Community College; 27 — At Murray State JV; 29 — Austin Peay JV.

Feb. 1 — At David Lipscomb JV; 3 — Middle Tenn. JV; 5 — At Paducah Community College; 10 — Tenn. Tech. JV; 11 — At Lindsey Wilson; 24 — At Austin Peay JV; 26 — Murray State JV.

March 3 — At Middle Tenn. JV.



BROWN'S ALL-STARS OF THE WEEK



BROWN'S SALUTES this week's all-stars Coach Jim Richards (center) and the basketball staff and players of Western. Richards is about to begin his second year as head coach and Brown's takes pride in wishing him and the Big Red Machine a lot of luck.

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Bunton confident, ready to play

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throughout the year, started winning. This was due no doubt in part to the fact that they finally had someone who could go to the boards with anybody.

And go to the boards Bunton did, averaging 17 rebounds per game over the latter part of the season, including a season-high 27 against Morehead in the OVC playoffs.

Granny isn't the ordinary run-of-the-mill boss under the boards because he had a unique way of taking the ball out of the air with just one hand, a

trademark he says that he learned when he was about 11 years old. "When I was 11," he said, looking back on his childhood, "we used to play all the time at the recreation center. The guy who was one of the supervisors at the center taught me how to rebound with just one hand. You can jump up higher with just one hand, you know, and it's sort of been my trademark. I don't really think you can teach a guy to rebound though, it's just a natural thing."

Natural or unnatural, Granny can certainly rebound. And it is something he must do, being a center. And being a 6-6 center surely doesn't make things any easier.

In today's competition the Toppers are faced with much taller centers, but Granny has his own philosophy about that, too. "You just have to take advantage of what you have," he noted. "When I play against a big man I try to outthink him. I try to keep him outside but it's generally outthinking him that will get the job done. Of course, I have to take my strengths and try to take his away."

But Granny has been used to playing with someone a little bigger ever since his younger

playground days. "I was about 5-10 when I was in the seventh grade and the older guys always made me play with them," he said with a laugh. "If I didn't play with them, they would whip me and make me, so I'm used to playing with someone a little bigger."

Granny has four brothers and oddly enough he isn't one of the largest in the family. Brother Bill, currently playing for the University of Louisville, is 6-8 and then there is his oldest brother Harold, who played for St. Mary's of California. Harold is 6-7.

Then there are his two youngest brothers, Stanley now plays for Male and stands 6-7, and the smallest member of the family, still in junior high school, stands only 6-3.

The Western players elected Granny team captain this year, the first time in a while that there has been just one captain.

So Granny begins another season, a season in which he vows will produce more than ever before. "My attitude is better this year, and my confidence is better," he explained.

There's no doubt that Granny can play. And this may well be the year that Granny Bunton puts it all together.

Toppers face tough schedule

—Continued from Page 2—

was playing "an extremely tough schedule." "It's not so much the teams are that much better, it's just where we play them," said Richards in reference to home-court advantage. Western also plays in two tournaments — at Vanderbilt in Nashville, with Kent State, Columbia and host Vanderbilt, and in the Trojan Invitational at Los Angeles, with host Southern California, Purdue and Auburn.

The OVC is much stronger this year, said Richards. "Without a doubt, all the teams in our

conference are stronger than last year," he said.

Richards said he felt Morehead has the advantage since the Eagles return all five starters and nine of 11 lettermen. "They have two outstanding freshmen who should see some action too," said Richards.

"Murray has three super freshmen who will be sophomores this year. Middle (Tennessee) seems to think they have the finest personnel they have ever had, including a 6-10 center. (Tennessee) Tech feels they have three players who should be among the top five OVC players. (Austin) Peay has the best personnel they have ever had," said Richards in two drawn-out breaths.

So now what's up in the air is the starting lineup. And according to Richards, that should be decided about five minutes before gametime Monday night.

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